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A HYBRID QUAIL

By M. E. PECK

WITH ONE PHOTO

AN INTERESTING hybrid quail, evidently *Oreortyx pictus plumiferus* x *Lophortyx californicus californicus*, was secured by Mr. Geo. D. Peck, April 1, 1911, on Silves River, Harney Co., Oregon, about two miles above the town of Burns. The specimen is a male in high plumage, and was one of a small flock of quail that a man had been feeding about his place during the winter. Whether there were any other hybrids in the flock, or whether the rest were all *O. p. plumiferus*, was not made out. This bird was killed, apparently, by flying against a telephone wire. It was mounted by Mr. Peck while fresh. A flock of *L. c. californicus* was seen near the place where it was secured, and according to Dr. Hibbard, of Burns, they are found throughout that section of the state. Dr. Hibbard has a mounted specimen in his collection. *O. p. plumiferus* is distributed rather locally through the Harney Valley, but does not seem to occur on the surrounding mountains, at least not on the upper course of the Silves.

The following is a detailed description of this hybrid:

Back, scapulars, and wings above deep ash, strongly suffused with olivaceous brown anteriorly, purer posteriorly; tail clear dark ash; inner edges of tertials light buffy; crown and nape ashy, the former with an olive brown wash, the latter with obscure mesial spots of blackish and minute wavy markings of black and white; forehead and lores soiled whitish, the latter with fine black lines; a black superciliary stripe, continuous with black markings of lores; a whitish stripe above and behind the black, passing backward above the blackish auriculars to sides of occipital region; chin and throat black, except a small, ill-defined area of mixed chestnut and black on upper throat, the black extending on sides of head to posterior angle of eye, and bordered all around by a white stripe, which is broadest on sides of

head. Sides of neck like nape; lower neck, chest and fore breast nearly pure dark ash, or slate-gray; passing on lower breast into white, the feathers narrowly edged with black; more posteriorly the borders becoming broader and mixed with chestnut, and the white markings laterally assuming the form of large round spots; sides like back, but with some buffy edgings above, forming a narrow indistinct stripe, and with large conspicuous v-shaped spots of chestnut, the borders of which are not sharply defined; abdomen mainly pale grayish buff; crissum rich cinnamon



Fig. 41. HYBRID QUAIL: RESULT OF THE CROSSING OF THE MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY QUAILS

buff, the feathers with black mesial stripes. The plumes of the crest are two, narrow, broadening gradually toward the tips, moderately recurved, 61 mm. in length. The bill and feet are essentially like those of *O. p. plumiferus*, except that the former is less robust and the curve of the tomia is more gradual. The measurements are: length, 288; wing, 132; culmen, 12; tarsus, 31; middle toe and claw, 41.

If this hybrid be compared point by point with the two parent forms, there

will be found a remarkably even balance of characters derived from each; this is especially true of the coloration. In size it more nearly approaches the larger species, but the tarsus is the same length as that of *L. c. californicus*. Interesting results might be obtained from a study of series of specimens from the same locality. *

SOME BIRDS OF THE SAN QUENTIN BAY REGION, BAJA, CALIFORNIA

By ALFRED B. HOWELL

SAN QUENTIN BAY is a body of water some five miles wide at its greatest width, and seven miles long, situated midway between Lat. 30° and 31° N.

With the exception of a very narrow and tortuous channel the water is but a few feet deep, and at low tide the extensive mud and sand flats which are exposed make ideal feeding grounds for vast flocks of waders. It is the winter home also of hordes of ducks. To the eastward lies a plain thirty miles long, which gently slopes upward until ten miles away it is gradually lost in the foothills of the San Pedro Martir Mountains. This plain being rather barren and dry has few forms of bird life except at its lowest portion where there is a series of fresh water lagoons. Between the bay and the sea lies a strip of wind-blown sand.

From April 26 until May 3, 1910, I was at the village of San Quentin; and from July 19 until the 23d we were anchored in the bay. The following statements hold good for both visits unless otherwise stated.

I passed San Martin Island (opposite the bay) at 4:30 a. m. on April 26. Black-vented Shearwaters (*Puffinus opisthomelas*) were swarming around the boat, circling in their characteristic way, while a great many could be seen leaving or returning to the hillside where a large colony was evidently nesting. Cassin Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) and Xantus Murrelets (*Brachyramphus hypoleucus*) were also present in some numbers, while White-winged Scoters (*Oidemia deglandi*) were numerous both outside and inside of the bay. Pelicans (*Pelecanus californicus*) and both of the Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax a. albociliatus* and *P. penicillatus*) sailed past us, but not until we were well inside the bay did I see something which I have always longed to observe. A sandy tide island was black with cormorants, but it was too far away to determine the species. There were acres of them, scores of thousands, and after we had passed they began to leave in a long black ribbon, never varying in thickness or width, and continuing for more than an hour, by which time we had passed out of sight.

Twenty miles from land, on July 24, four Black-footed Albatrosses (*Diomedea nigripes*) put in an appearance as we were becalmed, and remained with us throughout the day, paddling about the boat, and investigating in the most friendly way imaginable. I threw bits of bread to them when they were within ten feet of me, but except for carefully examining it, they would have nothing to do with it. One of them continually craned his neck straight up as far as it would go, while swimming in circles around another. All four left for the open sea late in the afternoon, in the wake of two large whales.

At this time *Puffinus opisthomelas* seemed to be absent, but on the 19th I wit-

* Mr. Geo. D. Peck has generously donated this specimen to the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, in which it is no. 19113 of the ornithological collection.—H. S. S.